



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



BISHOP'S LETTER: COME TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

How many of us wish to follow Jesus? For those of you whom I have met, from the youngest to the oldest, I believe your response would be a resounding, "I do!" When we are born, Jesus already knows each one of us, loves us and calls us to follow Him. From the moment we are baptized, we begin to follow Jesus. Some of you consented as adults to be baptized and some of you were presented by your parents and godparents to follow Jesus and as your family and friends taught you about Jesus, you also continue to follow Him.

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FROM THE USCCB OFFICE OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

As you know, on Corpus Christi Sunday 2022, the bishops of the United States launched a three-year Eucharistic Revival. The mission of multi-year movement is “to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist,” and I write to ask your help in spreading the word.

Specifically, we would be very grateful if you would consider inviting your audiences and contacts to begin the journey of Eucharistic Revival in our nation by signing up to receive the weekly [Heart of the Revival](#) newsletter.

Links for the primary “calls to action” we recommend:

[Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[National Eucharistic Revival Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)



A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers spread in a prayer gesture, resting over an open book. A lit candle in a brass holder is visible in the background, casting a warm glow. The background is dark and textured.

DIACONATE RETREATS

We are excited about the diverse lineup of excellent retreat directors for this year's retreats. Please sign up early to ensure your spot. Remember, all retreats are at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center and are open to both deacons and their wives.

CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER



FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023, FR. AUGUSTINE WETTA, OSB, "HOW THE DEACONS OF ORLANDO WILL (IN ALL HUMILITY) SAVE THE WORLD"

A deacon's life is all about serving with humility. Father Augustine will take us on the journey of how that humility, fueled by the Eucharist, and embracing inevitable moments of failure, will allow us to fulfill our mission of evangelizing the world ("Benedictine style").

Augustine Wetta is a monk of [Saint Louis Abbey](#) in Saint Louis Missouri. He has degrees in Theology, Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations and English. For 20 years he has taught English, Classics, and Theology at [the Priory School](#), in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he also coached rugby and served as Director of Chaplaincy. He is the author of [HUMILITY RULES: SAINT BENEDICT'S TWELVE-STEP GUIDE TO GENUINE SELF-ESTEEM](#), [THE EIGHTH ARROW](#), a fantasy prison break set in Dante's Inferno, and [SAVING GRACE](#), an illustrated children's book about a three-legged turtle. Father Augustine was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1971, but grew up in Galveston, Texas. There he learned to surf, and he remains an avid surfer. In fact, if you Google "surfing monk" his is the first name that comes up—along with a news report about how he was nearly eaten by a shark.

DIACONATE RETREATS CON'T

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)



MARCH 24-26, 2023, DEACON MIKE AND MARY FRANCES BERSTENE, “CONFIGURED AS THE ICON OF CHRIST”

The Sacred Order of Deacons is permanently restored as a “living icon of Christ the Servant within the Church.” The lives of the deacon and his wife are profoundly transformed by the diaconate and in their respective calls they become living icons of Christ the Servant. This retreat explores the spiritual journey through which we become aware of God presence and the image of Christ that shapes every part of our lives.

We will use an icon of Christ as a focal point that invites us to a deep spiritual reflection on how we see God, how we see ourselves and how that leads us to be a reflection of God’s love as living icons.


Deacon Mike and Mary Frances Berstene have been married for 51 years. Mike was ordained in 1993 and served as the director of deacons for the Diocese of Norwich Connecticut. Mike was awarded the Bart O’Leary award for outstanding leadership and service by the National Association of Diaconate Directors in 2013. Mike and Mary Frances have led more than 40 retreats for Deacons and Wives and Married Couples.

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)



APRIL 28-30, 2023, SPANISH LANGUAGE RETREAT – FR. FRED RUSE

Retreat Theme Being Developed!



CONTINUING FORMATION

WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING YOUR ASH WEDNESDAY HOMILY

Saturday, January 28th, 10am – 3pm (lunch included) at Nativity Catholic Church, Longwood, FL

Fr. David Scotchie will lead another in his successful series of homiletics workshops. This time it will be a hands on work session where attendees will develop a homily to use on Ash Wednesday, just in time for the start of Lent. Join brother deacons as you select your “one scripture, one theme, and one image” to create a compelling homily that will help your congregation start their Lenten season on a proper footing. By the end of the workshop you should be well on the way to having your homily written!

<https://forms.office.com/r/CbtHEW5ZD8>

FORMATION MENTORS

Every candidate for diaconal formation is required to have a deacon mentor to walk with them during their last three years of formation, as well as their first year after ordination. We need experienced deacons who can offer these men 2-3 hours of their time each month to accompany them on this journey. The process involves meeting with the candidate and, ideally, his wife each month to discuss the growth and challenges during formation. Each mentor is required to complete a brief appraisal each month to submit to the Formation Director. If you feel called to help form our future deacons and have not yet completed the mentor training, please email Deacon Dave at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org to indicate your interest. We will be offering training in the Spring.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Red Mass, January 26, 2023, 12:10pm at St. James Cathedral

Mass for Marriage, February 11, 2023, 10:00am at the Basilica Shrine of Mary,
Queen of the Universe

IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Deacon John Crotty of Good Shepherd Catholic church and Deacon Israel Pineiro from Resurrection Catholic Church.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace



MEMORIAL MASS SCHEDULE

Scheduled for January 27, 2023, at the Mary, Mother of God Chapel at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

- 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Hours for the Dead
- 8:30 a.m. Memorial Mass for Priests, Deacons & Laity recently buried

PRIESTS

Reverend Luiz Bastos
Reverend James F. Edwards
Reverend Hugh J. Flynn
Reverend Michael Flynn
Reverend William Holmes
Reverend Peter Quinn
Reverend Michael M. Reynolds
Reverend Eamon Tobin
Reverend Mark Wegg

DEACONS

Deacon Miguel Alvarez
Deacon Raymond Byers
Deacon Robert Kinsey
Deacon Homer Swart
Deacon Joseph Wortman



VIRGIN MARY SERIES

Meet us every first Saturday of the month at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, for our new monthly speaker series. Talks focused on the spirituality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At 10:30 a.m., confession is available for those desiring it. Followed by Mass.

[Click to Register](#)



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Bobby Gaudioso is turning 82

Deacon Claude Curtin is turning 82

Deacon Miguel Beltran is turning 82

Deacon Charlie Webb is turning 82

WELCOME OUR NEWEST EXTERN DEACON!

Deacon Ron Searls and his wife Eileen are joining our diocese from the Diocese of Joliet, IL. Deacon Ron has been assigned to Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Celebration. Ron grew up in New Jersey and met Eileen in his Senior year of high school. They married in 1969 and God blessed them with four children. Ron gained experience as a Lighting Engineer and Project Manager for High Intensity Ultra Violet Lamps before moving to Illinois

in 1979 to start his own business as an independent manufacturer's representative. Deacon Ron was ordained in 1990 in the Diocese of Joliet and has served in Sacramental Preparation Ministry as well as assisting Eileen with her many ministries as a Youth Minister, Liturgy Coordinator and Bereavement. Together they developed a Marriage Preparation program and worked together giving retreats and evenings of reflection. Starting in 2002, he worked as a Business Manager for two parishes until he retired in 2013 to move to Florida. Please join us in welcoming Deacon Ron and Eileen Searls to the Diocese of Orlando.



CHEERS TO YOU!

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Check out some of the wonderful events
going on in December.

Go to

[https://www.orlandodiocese.org/our-diocese/events-calendar/.](https://www.orlandodiocese.org/our-diocese/events-calendar/)



LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN IN
SPANISH



MARRIAGE
PREPARATION



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DIOCESE OF ORLANDO